(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Goverment have utilised the priceless idols of Lord Buddha presented by the tourists from Taiwan and Thailand for placing it in Sankisa;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any scheme to develop Sankisa as a tourist place; and

(f) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Making the lodging arrangement for tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory. However, the Deptt. of Tourism provide funds for construction of tourist complexes, wayside amenities, tourist reception centres etc. to the State Govts. based on the merits of the project *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has not submitted any proposal to the Deptt. of Tourism for construction of tourist facilities at Sankisa.

(c) and (d) According to the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the idols of Lord Buddha are in the safe custody of the State Government.

(e) and (f) For the integrated development of Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh the Department of Tourism has identified a circuit which includes Sankisa.

ISD Call Charges

3059. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce International Subscribers Dial (ISD) call charges during holidays;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign telecom companies have also offered concessional ISD calls; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Foreign telecom companies connot offer outgoing ISD calls at present as VSNL is the monopoly service provider of basic International telecommunication services.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Flights at Mridgulla Airport, Surat

3060. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the efforts made by the Government for the development and revival of the operation of the flights at Mridgulla Airport, Surat by handing it over to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Surat airport can sustain operation of 30-seater aircraft. Since it belongs to the State Government of Gujarat, it is upto them to hand it over to the private sector for development. Airlines are free to operate on any route in their commercial judgement.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

3061. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gauge conversion work of Ahmedabad-Delhi railway is likely to be completed as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for electrification of Ahemedabad-Delhi line is under cosideration of the Government;

(d) if so, the time by which the above line is likely to be electrified;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the said line is proposed to be connected with Gandhinagar to facilitate the commuters of the State capital;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether there is any proposal to introduce Rajdhani Express train on Ahmedabad-Delhi route after its conversion into broad gauge; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work has already been completed and the line would be commissioned before the target of 31.03.97.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of the high density routes, there is at present, no proposal to take up electrification of Delhi - Ahmedabad section.

(f) There is no proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) It is proposed to introduce a weekly Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Ahmedabad *via* Jaipur during 1997-98 on availability of higher speed on the converted section.

Gauge Conversion

3062. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI N. J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the details of the metre gauge/narrow gauge lines proposed to be taken up for conversion during the next three years;

(e) the budgetary allocation made for these conversion during the current financial year;

(f) whether the Government have any plan to take up conversion projects in Gujarat through private funding; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (g) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Child Labour

3063. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether child labour in India contributes more than 20% of the country's GNP;

(b) the percentage of GNP contributed by child labour during Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans;

(c) the specific steps taken during the above period to eliminate child labour atleast in hazardous jobs and industries; and

(d) the countries where child labour contributes over 10% of GNP?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The estimates of National Product are derived from the estimates of Domestic Product, which are compiled by kind of economic activity and by broad institutional categories, like organized and unorganized and public sectors. These estimates are not made by age-group.

(c) Government have taken a series of steps for the elimination of child labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in parts A and B of the schedule to the Act. There are also legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interest of working children. Apart from legal measures, government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. 76 child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. A major activity undertaken under the child labour project is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vacational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools. Besides opening of child labour projects, funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 123 districts and for awareness generation against the evils of child labour in 133 districts.

(d) No such information is available.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh

3064. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI D.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway stations in Uttar Pradesh particularly at Sambhal railway station where no waiting rooms, rest houses, potable water and platform with roof are available;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of cases referred to the Railway Advisory Board; and